

Letters of Support for Alaska Impact Alliance Proposal to the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

October 2023

1. State of Alaska – Office of Children’s Services
2. Alaska Adoption Services
3. Alaska Family Services
4. Alaska Youth and Family Network
5. Beacon Hill
6. Resource Center for Parents and Children
7. Volunteers of America Alaska



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Family and Community Services

Office of Children's Services
Director's Office

P.O. Box 110630
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0630
Main: 907.465.3218
Fax: 907.465.3397

October 5, 2023

Agnes Moran
Program and Planning Committee Chair
Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
3745 Community Park Loop, Suite 200
Anchorage, AK 99508

Dear Ms. Moran:

The Alaska Office of Children's Services (OCS) supports the Alaska Impact Alliance (AIA)'s proposal to the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority for the Early Childhood Intervention and Prevention grant. We understand that through the proposed project the AIA will expand and enhance its existing programs and projects augmenting budgeted State of Alaska funds designated to AIA. The funds will support the capacity building efforts and direct supportive opportunities for families involved with or at risk of involvement with OCS. OCS supports the AIA's proposal to expand and flexibly respond to families and children in foster care or at risk of removal by using these funds to support families and children through mini-grants for basic needs, respite, mental health consultation and other supportive services in a timely meaningful manner.

OCS works to ensure the safety and well-being of children in the State of Alaska. OCS receives, screens, and investigates reports of allegations of child abuse and neglect. OCS works with families to safely maintain children in their own homes, through referrals for services for families which connect them to community resources. OCS also is required to intervene legally if it is determined children are unable to remain safely in their own homes. In these cases, OCS provides out-of-home placements and permanency planning. In the last five years, OCS has received an average of 21,000 protective service reports per year, with an annual average of 9,600 cases screened in for services. Through adaptive, family-focused responses, we carry out our mission: ensuring the safety, permanency, and well-being of children by strengthening families, engaging communities, and partnering with Tribes.

The AIA's proposed project responds to a high level of need in our state for robust support for young Alaskans and their families with a lens of early intervention and prevention. OCS strongly supports the expansion of AIA's resources available for concrete supports, supportive services, resource navigation and early intervention efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kim Guay".

Kim Guay, Director
Office of Children's Services



Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
3745 Community Park Loop #200
Anchorage, AK 99508

To Whom it May Concern,

As a community of prevention partners working to improve community connections and well-being outcomes for children and families vulnerable to or currently involved with the Office of Children's Services, we would like to offer this whole-hearted letter of support for the Alaska Impact Alliance's application for the FY24 Reimagining Child Welfare Project grant. In this collaborative effort, we affirm our commitment to actively participate in the design and delivery of strategies to reimagine child welfare in Alaska. With the Alaska Impact Alliance as the lead agency, we will work together to create and support innovations that:

1. Participate in or promote the AK Family Resource Center Network.
2. Provide direct concrete support for vulnerable children and families.
3. Improve recruitment and retention programs for foster, kinship, guardian, or adoptive families.
4. Support community-led action plans to increase accessibility to vital services.

As representatives of the leading agencies working with at-risk children and families, we are committed to working together to identify new resources and strategies for collaboration that will boost protective factors and support those who need them most. We have demonstrated our resolve to work together in previous initiatives and are excited about this new opportunity to create and implement strategies to improve connections and support for children and families.

Sincerely,

Tami Watson and Victoria Ross
Executive and Deputy Directors
Alaska Adoption Services
907-302-6332



"In service to Alaskans, families, and communities to collectively create a better tomorrow."

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
3745 Community Park Loop #200
Anchorage, AK 99508

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As a community of prevention partners working to improve community connections and well-being outcomes for children and families vulnerable to or currently involved with the Office of Children's Services, we would like to offer this whole-hearted letter of support for the Alaska Impact Alliance's application for the FY24 Reimagining Child Welfare Project grant. In this collaborative effort, we affirm our commitment to actively participate in the design and delivery of strategies to reimagine child welfare in Alaska. With the Alaska Impact Alliance as the lead agency, we will work together to create and support innovations that:

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Desiré Shepler".

Desiré Shepler, MPH
President/CEO
Alaska Family Services



ALASKA
YOUTH & FAMILY
NETWORK

CULTIVATING WELLNESS AND STABILITY FOR ALASKAN FAMILIES WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITIES THROUGH
PEER-SUPPORTED ADVOCACY, EDUCATION, AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES



Alaska's Chapter of the Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health/National Federation of Families

October 08, 2023

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
3745 Community Park Loop #200
Anchorage, AK 99508

To Whom It May Concern,

As a community of prevention partners working to improve community connections and well-being outcomes for children and families vulnerable to or currently involved with the Office of Children's Services, Alaska Youth and Family Network would like to offer this letter as evidence of our heartfelt and committed support for the Alaska Impact Alliance's application for the FY24 Reimagining Child Welfare Project grant. In this collaborative effort, we affirm our commitment to actively participate in designing and delivering strategies to reimagine child welfare in Alaska. With the Alaska Impact Alliance as the lead agency, we will work together to create and support innovations that:

1. Participate in or promote the AK Family Resource Center Network.
2. Provide direct, concrete support for vulnerable children and families.
3. Improve recruitment and retention programs for foster, kinship, guardian, or adoptive families.
4. Support community-led action plans to increase accessibility to vital services.

As representatives of the leading agencies working with at-risk children and families, we are committed to working together to identify new resources and strategies for collaboration that will boost protective factors and support those who need them most. We have demonstrated our resolve to work together in previous initiatives and are excited about this new opportunity to create and implement strategies to improve connections and support for children and families.

Sincerely,



Paul Cornils
Executive Director

ALASKA
YOUTH & FAMILY
NETWORK

PO BOX: 233142, Anchorage, Alaska 99523-3142 Main Office: 740 Communications Ave, Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Phone: 907-770-4979

Fax: 907-564-6200

Website: www.ayfn.org

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BEACONHILL

907.222.0925 855.277.2004 info@beaconhillak.com 2807 Arctic Blvd, Ste. A, Anchorage, Alaska 99503 www.beaconhillak.com

September 19, 2023

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
3745 Community Park Loop #200
Anchorage, AK 99508

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in wholehearted support of the Alaska Impact Alliance's application for the FY24 Reimagining Child Welfare Project grant. The Alaska Impact Alliance is a community of prevention partners working to improve community connections and well-being outcomes for children and families vulnerable to or currently involved with the Office of Children's Services. As one of the partners committed to this collaborative effort, we affirm our commitment to actively participate in the design and delivery of strategies to reimagine child welfare in Alaska.

With the Alaska Impact Alliance as the lead agency, we confirm that we will work together to continue to create and support innovations that:

1. Participate in or promote the AK Family Resource Center Network.
2. Provide direct concrete support for vulnerable children and families.
3. Improve recruitment and retention programs for foster, kinship, guardian, or adoptive families.
4. Support community-led action plans to increase accessibility to vital services.

Beacon Hill has been a leading agency in working with at-risk children and families in Alaska, and we are excited about AIA's initiatives and efforts to identify creative resources and strategies to strengthen and support families. We believe this collaborative and cutting-edge work will increase protective factors, prevent child abuse and neglect, and ultimately impact families in our state for generations to come.

I am incredibly grateful for the support of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority in this endeavor and firmly believe that it will be funding that fuels change.

Sincerely,



Kristen Bierma, Executive Director
Beacon Hill



726 26th Ave., Suite 2
Fairbanks, AK 99701

(907) 456-2866
fax: (907) 451-8125

www.rcpcfairbanks.org



A Member Agency of



Backed by
National Children's Alliance
Accredited Member

Our mission is to create a culture that values parenting and keeping children safe through education, respect, advocacy, and strengthening families.

September 25, 2023

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
3745 Community Park Loop #200
Anchorage, AK 99508

To Whom it May Concern,

As a community of prevention partners working to improve community connections and well-being outcomes for children and families vulnerable to or currently involved with the Office of Children's Services, we would like to offer this whole-hearted letter of support for the Alaska Impact Alliance's application for the FY24 Reimagining Child Welfare Project grant. In this collaborative effort, we affirm our commitment to actively participate in the design and delivery of strategies to reimagine child welfare in Alaska. With the Alaska Impact Alliance as the lead agency, we will work together to create and support innovations that:

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4. Support community-led action plans to increase accessibility to vital services.

As representatives of the leading agencies working with at-risk children and families, we are committed to working together to identify new resources and strategies for collaboration that will boost protective factors and support those who need them most. We have demonstrated our resolve to work together in previous initiatives and are excited about this new opportunity to create and implement strategies to improve connections and support for children and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Leigh A. Bolin'.

Leigh A. Bolin, LCSW
Executive Director
Resource Center for Parents and Children



Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

3745 Community Park Loop #200

Anchorage, AK 99508

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As a community of prevention partners working to improve community connections and well-being outcomes for children and families vulnerable to or currently involved with the Office of Children's Services, we would like to offer this whole-hearted letter of support for the Alaska Impact Alliance's application for the FY24 Reimagining Child Welfare Project grant. In this collaborative effort, we affirm our commitment to actively participate in the design and delivery of strategies to reimagine child welfare in Alaska. With the Alaska Impact Alliance as the lead agency, we will work together to create and support innovations that:

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As representatives of the leading agencies working with at-risk children and families, we are committed to working together to identify new resources and strategies for collaboration that will boost protective factors and support those who need them most. We have demonstrated our resolve to work together in previous initiatives and are excited about this new opportunity to create and implement strategies to improve connections and support for children and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julia Luey', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Julia Luey, President & CEO

VOA Alaska